



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING FECAL ACCIDENTS OR
CONTAMINATION WITH VOMITUS OR BLOOD IN A SWIMMING POOL**

1. Close the pool and remove bathers immediately from pool area; advise bathers to shower immediately.
2. Manually remove as much of the waste from the pool water as possible and properly dispose of to sewer or approved waste location. Vacuum any remaining visible material to a sewer or to independent vacuum storage with independent vacuum; do not use pool vacuum system. Clean and disinfect tools/equipment used to remove the waste from the pool. For disinfecting of cleaning tools, contaminated surfaces and equipment, use a solution of 9 parts water to 1 part of household bleach (16 ounces, one pint, bleach to one gallon water).
3. (Optional) Collect at least 1 bacteriological sample prior to treatment (to determine presence and baseline).*
4. Clean and disinfect skimmers / gutters (see above for disinfection solution) and thoroughly backwash the filter.
5. Type of Incident Disinfection: (Note - also see Fecal / Blood / Vomitus Incident Guidelines flow chart)
 - A. Blood, vomitus and formed fecal matter – Keep pool water free chlorine at min.3 ppm for 4 hours.
 - B. Diarrheal: Disinfect the pool water to an appropriate CT Value (“C” is available free chlorine concentration in ppm and “T” is time in minutes):
 - 1). For un-stabilized pools: Use CT value of 15,300, with water temperature at approximately 77⁰F, pH between 7.2 and 7.5
 - 2). For stabilized pools: Use CT Value 72,000, with water temperature at approximately 77⁰F, pH 6.5 or less, minimum 40 ppm chlorine and stabilizer (cyanuric acid) concentration less than 50 ppm.

(Example of calculation of CT Value: 20 ppm free chlorine x 765 minutes (12.75 hours) = 15,300. Any combination of free chlorine concentration and time resulting in appropriate CT value is satisfactory.)

Test all pool water periodically to ensure the **free chlorine concentration is maintained and is distributed throughout pool.**

6. Thoroughly backwash the filter(s) after 4 turnovers** of pool water and at end of disinfection.
7. (Optional) Collect at least 1 bacteriological sample after treatment (to determine presence after shock).*
8. For low-volume pools, such as whirlpools and wading pools you can use higher free chlorine concentrations then drain the pool. Disinfect the pool (appropriate CT Value) and area, drain and refill with fresh, potable water.
9. Reopen pool when the chlorine level returns to an acceptable range (1.5 - 5.0 ppm) and the pool water is chemically balanced. The pool may also be reopened if the result of the bacteriological analysis is negative and the pool water is chemically balanced; if result is positive, repeat steps 1-8. This may require keeping the pool closed for at least 24-48 hours or longer, depending upon what actions were taken. High chlorine levels can be reduced by adding sodium thiosulfate or diluting with fresh water.

10. When an incident of vomitus, blood or fecal contamination occurs, log all information documenting what actions were taken to correct the situation. **Immediately report any occurrence of contamination of fecal, vomitus, or blood in your pool to the Fulton County Department of Health, Environmental Health Services, 404-730-1301**

* *Bacteriological samples must be collected in accordance with acceptable practices and procedures.*

Bacteriological samples must be delivered to a certified laboratory as quickly as possible.

** *The following turnover rates are required (a turnover is the time it takes to circulate all of the pool water through the filtration system): Swimming Pool(6 hours) = 4 turnovers in 24 hours; Wading Pool(2 hours) = 4 turnovers in 8 hours; Whirlpool (30 minutes) = 4 turnovers in 2 hours*